Indian Airlines makes refund against lost domestic ticket within a specified period after completion of necessary formalities. Refund against lost international ticket is, however, made on the spot.

Cess for Bangalore Airport Project

2432. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has sought the clearance for collecting a cess of Rs. 100 per passenger for the proposed Bangalore Airport Project; and

(b) if so, the action, if any, taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The Government of Karnataka has sought the approval of Central Government for the levy of a fee of Rs. 100 per user at the existing airport in Bangalore to help in meeting the State Government's financial support requirements for the proposed Bangalore Interna- tional Airport.

(b) No final decision has been taken in this regard?

Sales Tax exemption to Foreign Airlines on ATF Purchases

2433. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on exempting the foreign airlines from payment of sales tax on ATF purchases;

(b) whether it is a fact that huge amount of arrears have accumulated on account of non-payment of taxes because of the twin factors of levy of taxes;

(c) whether the domestic airlines are also expected to benefit from such exemption from payment of taxes on ATF;

(d) whether it will have any impact on the fares being reduced by the domestic airlines; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) A Bill has been introduced in Parliament to enact a legislation under Article 253 of the Constitution to exempt from all duties and taxes, the fuel and lubricants uplifted

by an aircraft registered in another State operating international services to, from and through India.

(b) The oil companies have incurred under-recoveries amounting to Rs. 694.27 Crores as on 31.3.2001 on account of amounts of sales taxes paid to the State Governments on sale of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to foreign airlines from Indian ports but not paid by the said airlines.

(c) Domestic airlines will not be benefited from this Bill as it is meant for fulfilling India's obligation under the Air Services Agreements with various countries.

(d) and (e) It will not have any impact on the fares of domestic airlines as they are not covered by the above Bill.

Cargo Revenue of AAI

2434. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cargo revenue of the Airports Authority of India has sharply declined in 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures Government have taken to augment the cargo revenue of AAI?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The cargo revenue of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for the year 2000-2001 marginally declined by 5.12% from Rs. 250.25 crores in 1999-2000 to Rs. 235.43 crores in 2000-2001. The main reason for decline are decline in the rate of growth of cargo from 12.88% in 1999-2000 to 4.63% in 2000-2001 and extended working hours at cargo complexes at Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai & Kolkata resulting in faster clearance of cargo causing reduction in demurrage charges which is a major component of cargo revenue.

(c) The following measures are projected to be taken to augment the cargo revenue.

(i) Operationalisation of Express/Courier operation at Mumbai and Delhi airport;